

# THE BUS STOPS HERE



## Safety Newsletter

September 1, 2023



SUFFOLK TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC

SUFFOLK BUS CORP.

### School Opening Day September 2023



District	First Day
Babylon	9/7/2023
Bay Port	9/7/2023
Bay Shore	9/6/2023
Brentwood	9/6/2023
Central Islip	9/6/2023
Commack	9/5/2023
Comsewogue	9/7/2023
Connetquot	9/6/2023
Deer Park	9/5/2023
East Islip	9/6/2023
Hauppauge	9/5/2023
Islip	9/7/2023
Kings Park	9/6/2023
Lindenhurst	9/6/2023
Longwood	9/6/2023
N Babylon	9/5/2023
Middle Country	9/6/2023
Port Jefferson	9/7/2023
Riverhead	9/6/2023
Sayville	9/7/2023
Smithtown	9/6/2023
Swissport	9/5/2023
Three Village	9/5/2023
West Islip	9/6/2023

**SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS POSTPONED:** The Special Needs class for van drivers and DA's has been postponed until after the start of school. Look for dates and times in upcoming Newsletters.

**2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR...THE FIRST WEEKS:** The first weeks of school can be a bit confusing, difficult and challenging to all involved. Most of the children (and drivers and DA's) are anxious and happy to board the bus and get back to school. Some may need to be reminded about school bus safety as they ride to and from school. Some may need to be reassured about leaving their parents. The initial contact between parents, children and the bus driver must be a positive one. One of the biggest challenges you face is trying to balance being helpful to the parents and maintaining your route schedule. While parent's concerns are important, it is also important for you to get to school bus stops on time. That in itself can be challenging, considering the six conditions of driving: Roads, Traffic, Weather, Light, Vehicle and Driver. The school bus is the first part of the school system that most parents see. For some it will be the only part they see and will become their first impression of the school itself. A clean, well-maintained school bus will give them a favorable impression of school, our Company and you as a driver. Maintaining a clean bus is a matter of safety. Be prepared from the start. This includes fueling the vehicle the day before and always completing a pre-trip and post-trip of the vehicle.

**LOADING & UNLOADING:** The most important part of safety happens at the loading and unloading of your students. Each driver and DA should review the section of their Safety Manual pertaining to Loading & Unloading (see Section 20.01, Page 102-105). Review the universal crossings hand signals with each of your students. Make sure you ask if your student is crossing. It is important to know your crossers. You owe it to your students to provide safe information.

**SLEEPING CHILDREN/UNATTENDED CHILD:** In the beginning of the school year many children are getting used to a new routine and may fall asleep on the bus. It is critical that you follow our safety policy for checking for sleeping children. Before and after each and every time you move your vehicle, you must check the entire vehicle for sleeping/unattended children, especially, without limitation, under every seat. If you fail to perform this check, you will be subject to disciplinary action. If a child is left on your vehicle, or if a child that requires an authorized adult - parent, guardian, school or facility personnel - to accept the child and is not present when dropping off a child, and you neglect this requirement, your employment will be terminated. This is a zero-tolerance policy, and no excuses are accepted, and no exceptions are made. If your route requires a driver assistant, you and the driver assistant must check the vehicle for sleeping/unattended children, especially, without limitation, under every seat.

